

THE CITIZEN

Vol. 33, No. 21

The 6th Area Support Group Newspaper

Oct. 19, 2004

Stuttgart, Oberammergau and Garmisch, Germany

Many reasons to cheer

Homecoming 2004,
25th anniversary celebration
& celebrity visit make for
exciting week on Patch

Pages 12-15

PHS sophomore Jessie Moscone soars into the waiting arms of her fellow cheerleaders during halftime of Patch's Homecoming victory over Aviano Oct. 2 on Husky Field. (Photo by Hugh C. McBride)

INSIDE THIS EDITION

Page 3

Communities set for safe 'spooktaculars'

Stuttgart and Garmisch keep safety at the forefront when planning Halloween events for ghosts and goblins of all ages.



Pages 7-10

Friendship events bridge borders

Stuttgart, Garmisch residents reaffirm their dedication to German-American relations with a number of friendship events.



Thorns 'n Roses

From community submissions



Roses to:

All the community members who donated their time and efforts to make the German-American Women's Club's 2004 Pfennig Bazaar such a success. Thanks to your selfless service, worthy organizations in our communities continue to benefit from the funds raised at this event.

Mr. Carroll at the Army Post Office on Patch Barracks. It is always a pleasure to be served by Mr. Carroll. Regardless of whether I am the first customer of the morning or the last one on a Friday afternoon, he always asks how I am doing, and his kind words and smile never fail to lift my spirits.

Cody Wallace, our local Stars and Stripes carrier, who woke up every morning by 4:30 a.m. to deliver our newspaper before he left for school. Cody, we will miss your professionalism!

Thorns to:

Whoever is responsible for parking the trucks, trailers, barbecue wagons and privately owned vehicles in front of the Panzer Kaserne mailroom. This is beginning to make checking your mailbox a hassle – customers shouldn't have to walk from the gym, bowling alley or shoppette parking lots to access this building. I think it's time for the 15-minute parking limit to be strictly enforced.

The 6th ASG Public Affairs Office, for not ensuring that the Stuttgart Community Post is posted online in a timely fashion every week. We value (and appreciate) the information contained in the Post – so please make sure we have regular access to it.

E-mail comments to citizen@6asg.army.mil or fax them to 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570.

THE CITIZEN

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group Commander

Public Affairs Officer
Jennifer Sanders
pao@6asg.army.mil

Editor
Hugh C. McBride
citizen@6asg.army.mil

Assistant Editor
Melanie Casey
caseym@6asg.army.mil

Reporters

Mildred Green
greenm@6asg.army.mil

Jen Stephan
bshsval@aol.com

Contact Information

Office Location: Building 3307-W, Kelley Barracks
U.S. Army Address: Unit 30401, APO AE 09107
German Address: Gebäude 3307-W, Kelley Barracks,
Plieningerstrasse, 70567 Stuttgart
Telephone: 421-2046/civ. 0711-729-2046
Fax: 421-2570/civ. 0711-729-2570

Advertising Information

For advertising information call 349-8443/civ. 06155-601443. For classifieds call 349-8447/civ. 06155-601447.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of The Citizen are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government or the Department of the Army.

The editorial content of this publication is the responsibility of the 6th Area Support Group public affairs officer. Private organizations noted in this publication are not part of the Dept. of Defense.

The Citizen is printed by the Stars and Stripes under written agreement. The European Stars and Stripes is responsible for commercial advertising.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement of the products or services advertised by the U.S. Army or the European Stars and Stripes.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron. If a violation or rejection of this equal opportunity policy by an advertiser is confirmed, the printer shall refuse to print advertising from that source until the violation is corrected.

The Citizen is an offset press publication printed in 6,500 copies every two weeks.

www.stuttgart.army.mil

'Why I Serve'

The features below are the second installment of a two-part look at some of the service members profiled in the Department of Defense's "Why I Serve" series.

Since August the DoD Web site and the Pentagon Channel have featured personal accounts of U.S. service members' decisions to enlist in the military and their experiences in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

From national pride to a sense of personal purpose, the featured troops' stories highlight a shared commitment to both individual excellence and the continued success of the U.S. military.

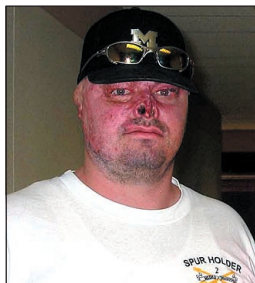
To read – or view video of – additional accounts of "Why I Serve" online visit www.defenselink.mil or <http://pentagonchannel.com>.

Wounded in Black Hawk crash, Bronze Star recipient vows return to full duty

By Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

As long as you have heart, there's nothing to stop you," said Army Sgt. Joshua Forbess, one of five soldiers who survived a fiery Black Hawk helicopter collision over Mosul, Iraq, in November 2003.



Forbess

The driving force behind his efforts to recover fully from his injuries – and to return to full duty in the military – is "all in here," Forbess said, tapping his chest.

By just about anyone's standards, Forbess has done his duty and served his country.

After the crash, the 27-year-old Decatur, Ill., native didn't regain consciousness for eight weeks, and he still tears up when he discusses the 17 of his fellow 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) soldiers – many of them his friends – who died in the incident.

Forbess lost an ear and half of his nose in the crash, and also suffered broken bones, extensive burns and smoke inhalation injuries.

While he continues to recover from his injuries – a process that, including reconstructive surgery, could take two to three years – he's back working on Fort Campbell, Ky., and remains committed to returning to full duty with his unit, the 320th Field Artillery Regiment's 1st Battalion.

"I love my job. I love training Soldiers," said Forbess, who was being treated at Brooke Army Medical Center when he spoke with the American Forces Press Service. "There's

*I love my job.
I love training Soldiers.
There's nothing else I could do
that I would enjoy as much
as that.*

Sgt. Joshua Forbess

1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment

nothing else I could do that I would enjoy as much as that."

Forbess said he barely notices the curious looks he receives when he goes out in public, revealing his facial injuries to the world. "I don't notice people staring," he said. "There's no shame. I'm still the same person inside."

While he recovers, Forbess is helping the Coalition to Salute America's Heroes plan its upcoming conference for wounded service members and their families. The group's Road to Recovery Conference and Tribute is slated for Dec. 8 to 12 at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla.

Forbess said the highlight of his military career was receiving the Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. "It means they took recognition of everything I did for my Soldiers," he said.

And Forbess wants nothing more than to be declared fully fit for duty so he can again take care of Soldiers – even if that job means another tour of duty in Iraq.

"I'll go back," he said, without hesitation. "I'll go anywhere I have to go."

Tradition, honor, hard work made Academy attractive to midshipman

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

I wanted to be a part of that honor [and] tradition and a part of young people who wanted to serve their country, work together and cared for each other so much," said Midshipman First Class Maia Molina-Schaefer about her first impression of the U.S. Naval Academy.

"It astounded me that people my age ... were working so hard to serve their country," she said.

Molina-Schaefer said her trek to the academy was inspired while she was in high school. While attending rowing classes and walking around the academy's campus, she said, she was in awe of all the midshipmen walking with such pride and honor.

In her life after the academy,



Molina-Schaefer

Molina-Schaefer hopes to become an intelligence officer and eventually a military attaché with the Marine Corps ground forces. "I want to work in foreign embassies and not only represent my service but my country as well internationally," she said.

The first woman in Naval Academy history to compete in and win the annual brigade boxing champi-

*It astounded me that people
my age were working so
hard to serve their country.*

Midshipman 1st Class

Maia Molina-Schaefer

U.S. Naval Academy

onship, Molina-Schaefer is also the public affairs and communications director of the Naval Academy Foreign Affairs Conference, 6th Battalion adjutant, and a member of the Women's Glee Club and Latin American Studies Club.

"To date, the Naval Academy has been my greatest achievement in life," she said.



HALLOWEEN 2004

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS & SAFETY REMINDERS

October 22 (Friday)

Teen Dance at Kelley YS

Kelley Barracks Youth Services, 6 to 11 p.m.

- All CYS-registered teens in grades seven to 12 are invited – wear a costume or come in your “civilian clothes.”
- Entry fee is \$5 per person (but if you bring a friend you get \$1 off your admission).
- The evening will feature games, food, dancing and prizes.
- For more information call 421-2548/civ. 0711-729-2548.



October 29 (Friday)

YS Carnival at the Pete Burke Center

Artillery Kaserne, 5:30 to 8 p.m.

- Theme: Pirates of the Caribbean.
- Raffle for Wonderful Wednesday ski package and other great prizes. (Raffle tickets only 25¢!)
- Free hay rides, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Halloween Party at Slider's

Slider's All Ranks Lounge, 8 p.m.

- Prizes for best – and most original – costumes.
- DJ Spike will spin the tunes to help all ghosts and goblins find their groove.
- No cover charge!

October 30 (Saturday)

Great Pumpkin Race

Patch Barracks, Husky Field, 10 a.m.

- Race your way into autumn with this 10K trek across the cross country trails in the woods behind Patch Barracks.
- The event starts and ends on Husky Field, with an awards ceremony, raffle and barbecue in the Patch Fitness Center immediately after the race.
- Pre-registration (Oct. 18 to 28) fee is \$10 for individuals or \$25 for families. Late registration (Oct. 29 and 30) is \$15 for individuals, \$30 for families.
- For more information call 430-5386/civ. 0711-680-5386 or e-mail doubekc@6asg.army.mil.

Pumpkin Carving Contest

RB Community Club & Theater, 4 to 6:30 p.m.

- Kids ages 4 to 14: Bring your carved or decorated jack-o'-lantern for an afternoon of Halloween fun.
- No fee – and those who wear a costume get free candy!
- Lucky participants may also win a family feast at Pizza Hut or movie passes.
- For more information call 420-6129/civ. 0711-819-6129.

Haunted House in Oberammergau

5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

- This trip is for Garmisch-area youth registered with the Middle School & Teen Center.
- To reserve a spot, bring \$2 and a signed permission slip to the MST Center by Oct. 28.

Costume Contest & Halloween Party

RB Community Club, 9 p.m.

- This one's for the adults – wear the evening's best costume and win a trip to Paris.
- Cover charge is \$10 in advance, \$13 at the door.
- For more information call 420-6129/civ. 0711-819-6129.

October 31 (Sunday)

Trick or Treat

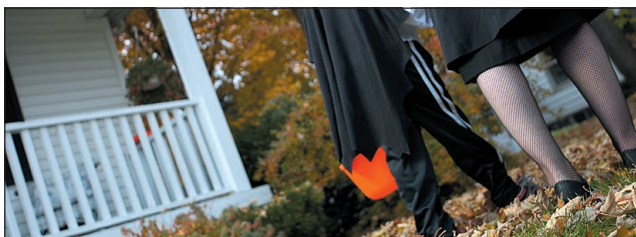
*Stuttgart & Garmisch housing areas
5 to 7 p.m.*

- Parents: Be sure to accompany your young children, and verify that your older children are traveling as part of a group. No one should be trick or treating alone.
- All community members should carry identification with them at all times and should ensure that they are visible in the dwindling daylight (via reflective tape, brightly colored clothing or flashlights).
- Observe everyday pedestrian safety measures: Stay on the sidewalks, and only cross the street at marked intersections (never from between parked cars).
- **Remember: Toy weapons and military uniforms as costumes are not permitted.**

Children's Costume Contest

RB Arts & Photo Center, 2 to 7 p.m.

- Photos taken of all entrants, and a panel of judges will award prizes based upon costume's creativity and originality.
- Prizes awarded to all winners.
- Extra photos will be available for purchase.
- For more information call 420-6038/civ. 0711-819-6038.



News & Notes

Don't forget to 'Fall back' Oct. 31

It's almost time-change time again. Daylight Savings Time in Europe begins Oct. 31, 3 a.m.

Community members are advised to set their clocks **back** one hour before going to bed Oct. 30.

Bowling Center opens Nov. 4

One of the premiere bowling houses in Europe is set to open Nov. 4 on Panzer Kaserne.

The Galaxy Bowling & Entertainment Center will feature 24 lanes, a “Strike Zone” snack bar, kids' area and much, much more.

For all the details on this family-friendly addition to the Stuttgart entertainment scene – and for information about the many job opportunities available there – call 421-2848/civ. 0711-729-2848.

Student contest deadlines near

Entries for the 2004 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions must be submitted by Nov. 1.

• **Voice of Democracy** is a national audio essay contest in which students in grades nine to 12 write and record a three- to five-minute essay on a patriotic theme. The contest provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. This year's theme is “Celebrating our Veterans' Service.”

• **Patriot's Pen** is an essay-writing contest for students in grades six to eight. First prize is a \$10,000 savings bond and a trip to Washington, D.C. The theme is “What Service to our Country Means to Me.”

Both contests are sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. For more information call 0711-329-0585, e-mail bob.gambert@t-online.de or visit www.vfw.org.

New system at clinic

The Stuttgart Army Health Clinic has implemented a new appointment system featuring same-day service.

The following are available on a same-day basis: Well woman exams (Wednesdays); well baby exams (Tuesdays); physical exams for military personnel (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays); sick call for military personnel (7:30 to 9 a.m. every day except Thursdays).

Well baby, well woman and physical exam appointments may also be booked in advance. All other appointments will be scheduled on a same-day basis.

For details call 430-8610/civ. 0711-680-8610.

Football championships on Patch

Stuttgart will host the IMA-E Unit Level Flag Football Championship Tournament – featuring the top two teams from each Area Support Group in Europe – Nov. 5 to 7. Games start at 10 a.m. each day on Husky Field.

For details call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

Patch gym to close for repair

The Patch Fitness Center gymnasium will be closed for maintenance Nov. 8 to 16.

For details call 430-7136/civ. 0711-680-7136.

YS sports registration underway

Registrations for Youth Sports basketball, wrestling and cheerleading will be accepted until Dec. 3.

• **Basketball** (for athletes ages 4 to 15) and **wrestling** (ages 5 to 15) cost \$30 for the first child, with a 10-percent discount for each additional child in the family.

• **Cheerleading** (which is open to children ages 5 to 15) costs \$20 for the first child, with a 10-percent discount for each additional child in the family.

For details call 431-2616/civ. 07031-15-616.

Fall Crafts Show at PHS

The Gussy Goose will hold its annual Fall Crafts Show Oct. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Patch High School Forum. Crafters from the community will be selling a variety of items, including quilts and wine glass charms.

The cost for crafters who wish to sell their wares is \$5 per space, plus a 10-percent commission to Morale, Welfare and Recreation on all goods sold.

For details call 430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

Book signing At Patch PXtra

Decorated World War II veteran Louis Rehr will meet community members and sign his book, “Marauder - Memoir of a B-26 Pilot in Europe in World War II,” Oct. 22, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., in the Patch PXtra.

CFC-O pledge drive underway in Germany

By Melanie Casey

The Stuttgart military community celebrated the local launch of the 2004 Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas with a kick-off celebration in the Patch Barracks Community Club Oct. 5.

U.S. European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater, III, opened the celebration by presenting a pledge card on behalf of EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald to CFC-O Europe Director Greg Sassman, marking the official start of the local campaign effort.

Local campaign goals

In Stuttgart, the campaign has two components: EUCOM and the 6th Area Support Group.

One of EUCOM's goals for this year is to achieve 100-percent contact between unit coordinators and personnel, said EUCOM CFC-O Program Manager Lt. Col. Robert Hopkins.

"If I ask, tell and explain what the program is, [service members] are more likely to give," he said. "[They] can make an informed decision."

6th ASG Program Manager Bob Rainbolt said he hopes to see more than 50-percent participation this year, "and a 5-percent total increase would be super."

A military operation

Broadwater urged area unit coordinators to get their jobs done early in the campaign by making personal contact with service members.

"You need to make yourself a personal representative for



photo by Tech. Sgt. Dale Yates

European Command Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater, III, presents a pledge card on behalf of EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald to Greg Sassman, CFC-O, Europe, director during a ceremony held Oct. 5 on Patch Barracks.

this program," Broadwater told the gathered CFC representatives. "Put the 'p' in personal and you'll have a much better result."

The CFC-O runs through Dec. 3.

For more information about the CFC-O, visit www.cfcoverseas.org or contact a local unit coordinator. Contact Hopkins at 430-4563/civ. 0711-680-4583 or e-mail hopkinsr@eucom.mil; or contact Rainbolt at 421-4395/civ. 0711-729-4395 or rainboltr@6asg.army.mil.

Officials urge generosity in annual campaign

By Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

Defense Department employees donated \$13 million in the 2003 Combined Federal Campaign, and officials hope to top that number this year.

At a campaign kick-off event in the Pentagon, DoD Director of Administration and Management Raymond F. DuBois spoke about this year's campaign theme: Superheroes. "All of us can be supermen and superwomen when it comes to helping those of our families and friends and neighbors who need our help," DuBois said.

In 2003, the \$13 million DoD raised was \$1.5 million more than the agency's goal. This year officials set a goal of \$12.1 million, and Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said he believes the department will again exceed its goal.

Wolfowitz likened donating to CFC to the work American service members are doing overseas. Both, he said, are forms of selfless service.

"[Service members and civil servants] are helping people today, particularly in Afghanistan and Iraq, on a truly heroic scale," Wolfowitz said.

"While our armed forces serve us so faithfully, the charities of the Combined Federal Campaign give gifts of education, nutrition and other life-giving support to those who need it most."

Stuttgart event focuses on disabled workers

By Mildred Green

An estimated one out of five Americans has a disability – a statistic that has implications for every one of us, said Lt. Col. Pete Lee, a member of the co-sponsoring event committee for Stuttgart's National Disability Awareness Month luncheon.

"At any time, anyone of us can join this group and may need reasonable accommodations in order to continue to work efficiently and effectively," said Lee, who offered opening remarks during the Oct. 4 event in the Swabian Special Events Center on Patch Barracks.

This year's National Disability Awareness Month theme, "You're Hired! Success Knows No Limitations," emphasizes economic opportunity through job creation, Lee said.

Lee noted President Bush's New Freedom Initiative Plan, a plan to reduce barriers to people with disabilities.

This effort, he said, allows America to draw on the talents and creativity of all its citizens, thereby creating opportunities for persons with disabilities to be fully included in the workforce of the 21st century.

In his invocation, 6th Area Support Group Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Holmes asked for help "to see ways that we can eliminate the rejection [people who are disabled] may experience."

Facing challenges

The event's guest speaker was Dinah F.B. Cohen of the Department of Defense Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program.

With humor and an energetic spirit, Cohen shared with the audience some of the challenges she has faced due to a rare heart condition.



Dinah F.B. Cohen

When Cohen began college, she intended to become a language interpreter, she said. However, because of her disability she had problems climbing stairs.

Since most of the buildings in her college did not have elevators, Cohen said she had to change her major seven times before finding a major on the first floor of a building.

Changing mindsets

Cohen said that people need to have a different mentality about the disabled. She told employers, "even if you never hire someone with a disability, someone [in your workplace] will need to be accommodated."

People get older, or as Cohen called it, chronologically gifted, and may become disabled in some way.

Cohen even reflected upon the wounded service members (some of whom she has personally visited at Walter Reed Hospital) who return from Operation Iraqi Freedom with loss of vision, hearing or limbs.

At any time, anyone of us can join this group and may need reasonable accommodations in order to continue to work efficiently and effectively.

Lt. Col. Pete Lee
6th Area Support Group

"Are you prepared to accommodate them?" she asked.

Overcoming adversity

Cohen also shared the story of a woman who, on her second day of work as an accountant at the Pentagon on Sept. 11, lost all of her fingers and suffered burns on 70 percent of her body.

The woman asked if there was anything that CAP could do for her. Cohen and her employees showed the woman how to work on a voice-activated computer system that enabled her to perform tasks such as working with Excel spreadsheets and navigating the Internet.

Cohen said that today, that same woman works from home. After all, Cohen said, "Work is what you do, not where you do it from."

Appreciating talent

Cohen ended her speech by reinforcing the concept that people with disabilities are problem solvers. "They have to be," she said.

For example, Cohen said, if she is running

late, she has to have different plans to fall back on because unlike others, she cannot just take off in a sprint to solve her problem.

She told managers to "take advantage of and appreciate the talent of people with disabilities."

Equal Employee Opportunity Specialist Mariah Armstead said she hopes managers and employees become more aware of the advantages of having employees with a disability.

"There are fewer absentees or behavior problems," said Armstead, "because they are more focused on the job."

CAP is the centrally-funded program that provides assistive technology and accommodation services to employees with disabilities in the Department of Defense and throughout the federal government.

For more information visit www.tricare.osd.mil/cap or www.disabilityinfo.gov.

For local information, call Mariah Armstead, 6th Area Support Group EEO specialist and disability program manager, at 421-2649/ civ. 0711-729-2649.

ACS promotes awareness of domestic violence

By Mildred Green

Stuttgart's Army Community Service held a chili cook-off Oct. 1 to help promote the beginning of Domestic Violence Awareness month.

Along with the signing of an awareness proclamation 6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris, ACS Family Advocacy Program Manager Keita Franklin shared a few facts about domestic violence awareness.

"Domestic violence is a very sensitive – maybe even taboo – subject," said Franklin.

She explained that in the U.S., a woman is beaten every 15 seconds, and within the military population (in 2002) there were 18,000 reported cases of spouse abuse.

"Women of all cultures, races, occupations, income levels and ages are battered by husbands, boyfriends and partners," said Franklin.

She added that domestic violence is not just a crime committed against women but it affects men too. "Domestic Violence does not discriminate," she said.

For more information about domestic violence call ACS at 430-7176/civ. 0711-680-7176.

Domestic violence resources online:

National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

www.ncadv.org

Family Violence Prevention Fund

<http://endabuse.org>

Army tests new 'eye in sky'

Blimp makes 24-hour flight over nation's capital during weeklong evaluation

Story & photo by Sgt. 1st Class
Antony M.C. Joseph
Army News Service

The Army has begun experimenting with a free-flying mobile aerial reconnaissance platform, sending it over the Washington, D.C., area.

The project melded available technology – a blimp – and the Rapid Aerostat Initial Deployment System, known as RAIDS.

During the week-long demonstration, the airship flew a 24-hour endurance flight over the Pentagon and also supported a joint-force protection mission.

The demonstration was conducted by the Joint Land Attack Cruise Missile Defense Elevated Netted Sensor Project Office in partnership with ARINC Engineering Services and the American Blimp Corporation.

"The A-170 Airship is regulated by the FAA to fly up to an altitude of 10,000 feet, but can fly higher if needed," said Raymond W. Berhalter, a principal analyst at ARINC.

"Even at that height, using the RAID systems surveillance cameras and sensors, the airship platform can provide a clear and detailed view of the activity on the streets below and yet stay out of the range of many weapon systems," he said.

Though the airship was flown by a pilot, Berhalter said it can be adapted to fly unmanned.

The airship is an extremely survivable form of air transportation, said Pam Rogers, project office spokesperson.

"The helium-filled balloon portion of the airship is not highly pressurized," Rogers said. "Gunshots won't burst the airship – it can actually remain buoyant for hours after suffering such a puncture."

Unlike the Hindenburg, which was filled with hydrogen, this airship is filled with helium, she said, which is an inert gas and not flammable.

Along with its force protection and surveillance capability, the airship can also be used for cargo.

"The airship can be used to transport materials and equipment across international distances and potentially land on water, making it a viable alternative to other more expensive means of transportation," Rogers said.

"Propelling the helium-filled balloon uses less energy than conventional jet engines and is therefore more cost effective," she added.

RAIDS is currently deployed in support of troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The existing system, however, is a combination of cameras and surveillance equipment on high towers and tethered blimps.



The A-170 Airship gets prepped for flight in a cornfield at the Freeway Airport in Bowie, Md. Able to be flown either by an onboard pilot or via remote control, the airship uses surveillance cameras and sensors that can provide detailed views of activity on a street-by-street level while the craft remains out of the range of many weapons systems.

Don't believe the rumor NARA not destroying vets' military files

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

The National Archives and Records Administration is not destroying any military records, NARA officials said. The agency is trying to counter an Internet rumor that advised veterans to apply for their Official Military Personnel Files to save them from destruction.

There is no truth to this "urban legend" being perpetuated on the Web, said Susan Cooper, the archive's public affairs officer.

The records are stored at the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis. Officials there said that there has been an increase in the number of veterans requesting their records, which takes time away from requests such as separation documents or medical records.

"We have a limited number of people to do the work, and anything that ramps the requests up this quickly is a big production issue with us," said John Constance, NARA's director of congressional and public affairs.

Archivists are digitizing some records "for reverence and preservation," Cooper said, but officials emphasize that the paper records remain intact. "When records are handled frequently, it causes some wear and tear," Cooper said. "The idea is to preserve (the records), not destroy them."

NARA preserves and protects the files because they are permanently valuable records. Bottom line: Your military records are safe.

For more information visit www.archives.gov.

Breaking bread, building bridges

Bazaar brings communities together

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

From the home-baked delicacies just inside the front door to the second-hand treasures that filled the farthest nooks and crannies of the *Haus der Wirtschaft*, the attractions were many – and the prices apparently right – for the thousands of attendees who flocked to downtown Stuttgart for the German-American Women's Club's annual Pfennig Bazaar.

As they have done for decades, shoppers from the German and American communities in Stuttgart shared snacks and searched the stacks in a side-by-side effort to bag bargains and raise funds for local charities.

"Wow – there's a lot of stuff here," said Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, as he surveyed the sales area from a second-floor balcony during the bazaar's Oct. 6 opening ceremony.

The start of the event – which raises considerable sums of money for both German and American organizations in the area – is always "a great day to be in Stuttgart," Wald said.

The result of months of planning, collecting, sorting and organizing, the bazaar "shows what kind of people we have serving our community," he added.

Gabriele Müller-Trimbush, Stuttgart's mayor for social affairs, said she was "impressed and overwhelmed" by both the effort of the bazaar's volunteers and the results of their work.

With a crowd of volunteers watching from the sales area – and



Volunteers make a few final adjustments to a table filled with toys during the opening moments of the 2004 Pfennig Bazaar Oct. 6 in Stuttgart's Haus der Wirtschaft.

a growing throng of shoppers anxiously awaiting in the outer halls of the *Haus* – Wald ended the ceremony and started the sale by joining hands with the GAWC's Trudle von Berg to cut a cake dedicated to continued German-American friendship.

The twin themes of friendship and volunteerism have been at the core of the GAWC's efforts since its establishment in 1947, said the club's American president, Maureen Parker.

Though a massive undertaking, the bazaar is "a great working environment," because of the members' dedication to the club's core principles of community service and positive German-American relations, Parker said.

"All the ladies had a lot of fun getting to know one another and working together for such a worthy cause," she said.



Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of U.S. European Command, joins Trudle von Berg, a founding member of Stuttgart's German-American Women's Club, in the ceremonial cutting of the cake that marked the start of the 2004 Pfennig Bazaar. An annual event that raises funds for German and American organizations in the area, the bazaar is the result of a yearlong effort by volunteers from both communities.

Area service members, civilians aim to advance historic German-American friendship



Air Force Col. Harold Bullock of U.S. European Command shares a laugh with a counterpart from the German Luftwaffe during the Sept. 25 Day of the Reservist event in Neckarzimmern.

Local troops celebrate Tag der Reservisten with German hosts

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

Don't tell the people of Neckarzimmern that there's been a breach in the historic friendship between Germany and the United States.

With the Stars and Stripes atop one of the Rathaus flagpoles, Neckarzimmern Mayor Bernhard Schneider and a host of other officials welcomed a group of Stuttgart-area service members to the city's celebration of Tag der Reservisten (Day of the Reservist).

"Your participation shows that we Soldiers stand together in fighting for peace and freedom," German Col. Heinz Simon of Karlsruhe told the U.S. attendees during a pre-celebration ceremony.

Observed in cities throughout Germany, the Day of the Reservist is an opportunity for local military, fire/rescue, and other emergency service personnel to display some of the tools and techniques of their trades.

In Neckarzimmern, the celebration also served to solidify a friendship that has formed between German reservists and a group of their counterparts from Headquarters, U.S. European Command.



Col. John Dabrowski of the U.S. European Command History Office meets with a German visitor to the EUCOM booth during the "Day of the Reservist" Sept. 25 in Neckarzimmern.

The EUCOM contingent – which included representatives from the Army, Air Force and Marine Corps – set up and staffed an information station that included U.S. military equipment; Meals, Ready to Eat; and an overview of the EUCOM mission and area of responsibility.

The opportunity to interact with host-nation colleagues at events such as the Day of the Reservist is "wunderbar," said Col. John Dabrowski of the EUCOM History Office. "These events demonstrate the professionalism of the German reservists and the close ties that exist to this day between members of the German and U.S. military," Dabrowski said.



[Above] Under the watchful gaze of Klaus Pasbrig, Area Support Team Garmisch Director Greg Holzinger takes aim during the annual German-American Friendship Shoot Sept. 25 at the Keans Lodge. [Below] Walter Jarvis appears to be more than satisfied with his score during the event's qualifying round.

Weather can't dampen spirits at Friendship Shoot

Story & photos by Jen Stephan

For the past 45 years, no matter the climate in international politics or the weather outside, Germans and Americans have been getting together at Garmisch's Keans Lodge for a day of swapping stories and matching shooting skills.

Despite cold temperatures and a persistent downpour, this tradition continued Sept. 25 as participants in Area Support Team Garmisch's annual German-American Friendship Shoot came together for an afternoon of laughter and good-natured competition.

"This is a lot of fun regardless of the weather, and it's good to see [Germans and Americans] interacting," said Vince Avanzini, a Garmisch member of the 6th Area Support Group Provost Marshal's Office. "I think it's very important."

Gunter Gleissner, forestry director for Garmisch-Partenkirchen and an event participant for more than 20 years, agreed. "The weather is a pity ... but you'll find here that we are hardcore and tough ... with the same attitude as that of our mountains."

Andrea Winter, AST Garmisch's host-nation affairs officer, planned well for the weather, with indoor seating and a canopy over the lodge's patio, where many sat and ate bratwursts and homemade potato salad while being warmed by portable heaters.

"This is [an event] people look forward to," Winter said, pointing out several regular attendees. "It's one of the few times a year Germans can come to an American event."

Dressed in traditional Bavarian attire, professional hunters – or Jäger – loaded rifles for the participants and dispensed advice during qualifying rounds, when anyone could try his or her luck and skill.

Gamely aiming a pellet rifle for the first time, Jean Boylan, a visitor from Michigan, said she was impressed with the opportunity the Friendship Shoot had given her to meet the local residents.

"That's why you come to this country – to get to know the people and their culture," Boylan said.

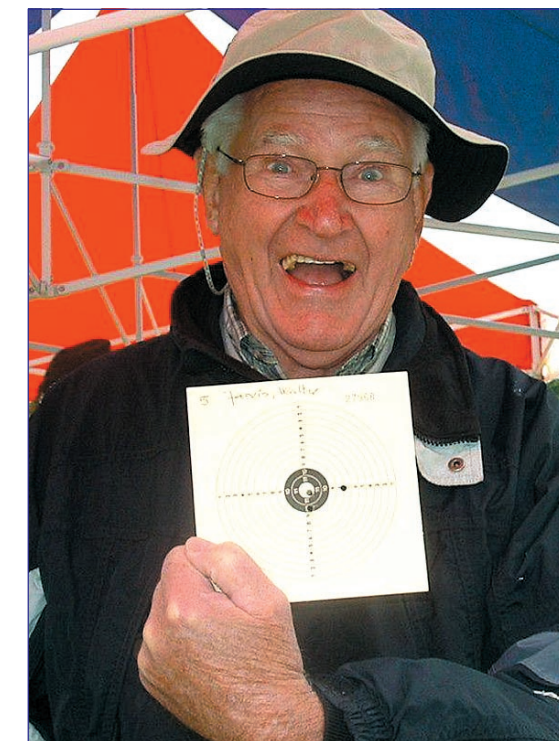
This year's event saw 13 shooters advance to the final round where, from 40 meters, each took a single shot at the target – a decorative plaque that is awarded to the winner (who, according to custom, then has to buy a new plaque for next year).

Gathered under the canopy for the final round, Germans and Americans openly encouraged each other and chuckled at self-effacing remarks from the shooters and light teasing by the target judges.

At an award ceremony in the lodge, Christian Gleissner received the first-place plaque, with Charlie Washington honored for his second-place finish and Claus Gruendl lauded for finishing third.

"The weather is absolutely bad, but this turnout is an indication of how bonding this event is for people," said AST Garmisch Director Greg Holzinger, who presided over the award ceremony.

"It's wonderful to do something together with Americans," said Gruendl, former president of the International Friendship Club in Oberammergau. "I think it's wonderful to be able to cross your fingers for one another."



Gen. Jones: Realignment of U.S. forces won't reduce commitment to Europe

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

A drop in the number of U.S. forces in Europe does not mean any lessening in the U.S. commitment to the continent, the commander of U.S. European Command said Oct. 6.

The United States will realign its forces in Europe "to meet the family of threats that face us in a way that is more suitable," Gen. James Jones said.

As U.S. forces realign to become more expeditionary, more available and quicker, the general said, their presence in Europe will drop from about 100,000 to around 50,000.

Jones said current planning includes an Army Stryker brigade in Germany, a Southern European brigade in Italy and an Eastern European brigade (which would be a rotational unit).

Realignment plans also involve the placing of more U.S. special operations forces in the region, Jones said.

Reconfiguring the forces in Europe has already begun, the general said, noting the combining of the U.S. Navy headquarters in London, England, with the Navy headquarters in Naples, Italy.

"We have to move out of the 20th century, where massive headquarters were formed and got bigger and bigger and bigger," he said.

Jones said the time is now to make these changes. "There is no uniformed enemy on the side of a border, and the principle of mass of the 20th century has been replaced by the principle of precision," he said.

"We can do a lot more by being precise and playing a more proactive role in preventing conflict than always having to react to conflict," he added.

Getting a small number of highly capable forces to an area may prevent a problem from becoming a crisis, he said.

"Proactive costs are invariably cheaper than reactive costs," Jones said.

But smaller numbers do not mean a lessening of interest in Europe.

In the last two years, EUCOM has identified to Congress the installations that the United States absolutely has to retain. Jones said that this effort in Europe saved more than \$300 million in military construction projects.

Europe remains strategically important to the United States. Between 85 and 90 percent of the personnel and cargo moved to operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom moved through the region.

"We're not turning off the lights in Europe. We're actually turning up the wattage a little bit so we can do some other things."

Gen. James Jones
U.S. European Command

If all goes as planned – and everything about reposturing the forces in Europe is done in consultation with allies – three types of U.S. bases in Europe will emerge:

- **Main bases** (such as Ramstein Air Base) will serve as system hubs.

- **Forward operating bases** (such as Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo) will be kept "warm" by local nationals, contract employees or a small cadre of service members. Such bases could accommodate a brigade, but not support families.

"We can simply turn on the lights and operate relatively quickly," Jones said.

- **Cooperative security locations** will be bare-bones facilities designed for use by special operations, Marines or light infantry.

EUCOM is working with the State Department to negotiate access to areas for cooperative security locations, Jones said.

"In the end, the footprint will allow us to become more strategically engaged in the East and Far East, which is an area of the world that we are interested in," Jones said. "It would also allow us to spread our influence in Africa, a continent of looming challenges for the 21st century."

Reposturing is not just about defending the United States, Jones said.

"This is about making sure that we halt the spread of ... radical fundamentalism, weapons of mass destruction, narcoterrorism and all the things that are making this world a more dangerous place than it has to be," he said.

The transformation should also make life easier for service members and their families because it will make life more predictable.

And there will still be opportunities for service members to live in Europe.

"We're not turning off the lights in Europe," Jones said. "We're actually turning up the wattage a little bit so we can do some other things."

Black Forest Quilters

Stitching together an international tradition, one square at a time

Story & photos by
Hugh C. McBride

The best quilters employ passion, effort and creativity to weave the most unlikely elements into works of art.

Since 1992, the members of Stuttgart's Black Forest Quilters have used the same

"The guild is about getting together with friends and having fun."

Diane Murtha
Black Forest Quilters

"This group is the place to come and learn and be inspired."

Cyndi Bose
Black Forest Quilters



skills to create a tradition of international camaraderie centered around a mutual love of their craft.

Boasting military and civilian members from the United States, Germany, Scotland, England and Singapore, the guild is home to both novices and long-time quilters.

In addition to serving as a learning center and a social outlet, the group also focuses on "things that benefit both the German and American communities," said Quilters President Cyndi Bose.

From participating in international expositions to creating quilts to be donated or sold for charity, the guild

allows members to put their skills to use both for fun and for a purpose.

"For me, the best compliment is to come back years later and see a quilt that I made that's just been loved to death," Bose said.

For more about the
Black Forest Quilters
visit www.blackforestquilters.com
or e-mail
bfqg@yahoo.com.

The guild meets the fourth
Thursday of every month in
the former "O Club" on
Panzer Kaserne.

For details visit
The Gussy Goose or call
430-5270/civ. 0711-680-5270.

[Above] Guild member
Ilse Provinsal works on
another creation during a
show in the Patch High
School Forum.

[Below] This quilt by
Cyndi Bose offers a way
for Halloween (and Harry
Potter) fans to keep
warm.



Don't miss the
Black Forest Quilters'
booth at The Gussy Goose's
Fall Crafts Show.

Oct. 23
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Patch High School Forum

The quilt that serves as the backdrop for this page was created by a member of the Black Forest Quilters, and was photographed while on display at the Sept. 26 Quilt Show in the Patch High School Forum.

An international collection of quilters of varying skill levels and experience, the organization – which is considered a "teaching guild" – has been serving as a source of instruction and inspiration to

Stuttgart-area artisans since 1992.

Reflecting the group's multinational membership, the guild is led by two presidents – one German representative and one individual from the local U.S. military community.

The guild's current German president is Birgit Klein, and the American president is Cyndi Bose.

Children Helping Children

Stuttgart residents assist African kids

How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.

— Anne Frank —

By Mildred Green

Heeding the words of one of the world's most famous diarists, members of the Stuttgart military community did not hesitate to take part in a humanitarian effort to help underprivileged children in Africa.

They donated new and used school supplies that were taken to schools, orphanages, camps, shelters and hospitals in six different African countries in July.

Donations were distributed to 11 sites throughout Uganda, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Ghana.

Community support

The 6th Area Support Group Chaplain's Office spearheaded the project, Children Helping Children, by spreading information throughout the community and then organizing with various local agencies.

Among the area groups that assisted with the project were Child and Youth Services and the Patch Chapel (which organized donation drop-off points) and the Department of Defense Dependents' School, which helped to collect a number of items for the effort.

Near the end of last school year, students pitched in by donating school supplies and books as they cleaned out their desks in preparation for summer vacation.



Capt. Curry W. Graham

Marilyn Wald, wife of EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald, visits a school in Nigeria, one of 11 countries that received donations in July from the Stuttgart military community's Children Helping Children project.

Abundant generosity

After the donations were collected, more community members helped by sorting and boxing the supplies.

With help from children at the Patch School Age Services, the youth ministry group Common Bond, the Chaplain's Office and U.S. European Command, all donated items were packaged for the journey.

Because of the community's overwhelming response, there was actually an overflow of items, said Robert Quigley,

Chaplain's Office manager.

Individuals and organizations supported the project not only by volunteering their time but also by providing vehicles, supplies and storage, Quigley said.

"This generosity and support from the community was no surprise to the staff of the Chaplain's office," he said.

When the maximum amount of weight allowed on the plane was reached, whatever remained was kept for future projects, said Michelle Hughes, a college student who was working with EUCOM.

Hughes, who was involved with Children Helping Children from its beginning, staffed the supply sorting room on Patch Barracks, where she oversaw volunteer operations and ensured that each box had a balanced amount of supplies and was packaged properly.

Hughes said that it was nice to see the community, especially the children, coming together to help this cause.

Her only regret, she said, was that "I wish I could see the faces of the African children [when they receive the boxes]."

Fourth-grader Kristi Carrigan — one of the children from the SAS who

helped with sorting — seemed to understand the reason behind the project and also her contribution.

"It makes me feel good," Carrigan said.

"We are helping other people that don't have anything. I don't need [to have] everything, just a little bit. Some people in the world don't have things that we have ... it's good to share."

6th ASG Chaplain (Capt.) Thomas Holmes was also present during the second of two sorting days. Holmes addressed the community's overwhelming response to the project. "I've seen the tremendous generosity of the people. It's great," he said.

The trip to Africa was a success, according to Marilyn Wald, wife of EUCOM Deputy Commander Gen. Charles Wald. Mrs. Wald was one of the individuals who traveled to Africa to distribute the supplies.

On Sept. 15, Wald shared some of her experiences in Africa with a group of SAS children.

She showed the children pictures from her trip and also brought in some unique items from Africa, included handmade baskets and fabrics sold by vendors in the areas she visited.

Some of Wald's pictures showed the harsh conditions in which African children study and live. For example, one of the schools Wald visited had three classrooms and six children seated at one desk. Most of the schools had dirt floors.

The majority of schools she visited had no electricity, screens or air conditioning either, Wald said.

Nonetheless, as Wald showed pictures of the African children and teenagers dancing and smiling, she said, "they may not have many things, but they were so happy."

Wald said she really hoped the SAS children understood how their contributions to Children Helping Children made a difference to so many kids in need.

Every donation helps

Wald said one of the most important lessons she learned during the trip was that "every little [donation] helps."

"It was wonderful that [kids from the Stuttgart community] were able to participate," Wald said, adding that the people of the Stuttgart community are "so generous, wonderful and amazing."

Wald said she hopes to make this an ongoing project and return to Africa next year.

Patch schools celebrate silver anniversary

Elementary, high schools opened in October 1979

Story and photos by Melanie Casey

1979 was the year that disco began to die, the year of the Three Mile Island nuclear disaster, the Iran hostage crisis and Mad Max. It was also the year that Patch High School and Patch Elementary School opened their doors for the first time, on Oct. 4.

PHS remembers

Community members, students and a handful of faculty members gathered on the doorstep of PHS 25 years to the day later to remember and reflect on the schools' opening. Elementary teachers Mavis Tell and Queen Thompson joined PHS faculty members James Heffernan, Carol Heffernan, Jack Goldman, Winnie Zeckel and Martha Ficklin – all of whom were on the staff when the schools opened – to share some tender and often humorous moments about life during the schools' first weeks.

Tell recalled that the elementary school library had no books for the entire first year, and Carol Heffernan noted that the high school gym wasn't finished until six months after school began.

"The faculty is a family," said Zeckel, a PHS science teacher. "They have become part of my world and I cherish that." Other veteran teachers agreed with Zeckel's sentiment of the school as family, with Ficklin noting that "DoDDS is an amazingly small family [but]... a great family."

Lt. Gen. Colby Broadwater, U.S. European Command chief of staff, told the crowd of assembled elementary and high school students about when he began his own DoDDS schooling – in the basement of an apartment in Karlsruhe

The real reason we are here is to celebrate the wondrous achievements and innumerable successes of the many individuals who have worked and learned here.

Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris
6th Area Support Group commander

more than 25 years ago. But, he added, "[education] is not about the buildings, it's about you and what you represent. Be the best you can be in learning." Department of Defense Dependent Schools, Bavaria District, Superintendent Dr. Ronald McIntire, also stopped by for the schools' 25th anniversary celebration. "The teacher is the backbone of the education system," he said. "We can talk about buildings, but the purpose of an education system is to prepare you to live in a democracy." One retired PES teacher made it a point to help celebrate the schools' milestone with her former colleagues. "It's wonderful that they have an American school with

See **Celebration**, Page 13



Patch Elementary School Kindergarten teacher Jill Beckham helps celebrate the school's 25th anniversary Oct. 4 on Husky Field. Flags, songs and dancing were all part of the birthday celebration for PES and PHS.

Celebration
from Page 12

American standards [in Europe],” said Anita Post, who taught second grade at PES from 1992 to 2000. “DoDDS schools do a wonderful job.”

6th Area Support Group Commander Col. Gwendolyn Bonéy-Harris also lent her support to the schools’ silver anniversary celebration.

“This gathering was advertised as an opportunity to mark a milestone in the lives of two buildings,” Bonéy-Harris said. “But the real reason we are here ... is to celebrate the wondrous achievements and innumerable successes of the many individuals who have worked and learned here.”

PES celebrates

As part of their 25th anniversary celebration held later in the day, PES students gathered in front of the school and, grouped together by graduating year, paraded the short distance from the school to Husky Field.

Beginning with the kindergartners (class of 2017), the students marched on to the field in turn. As each class started around the track, its teacher was handed a bundle of nine balloons.

Attached to each balloon was a postcard, which asked – in both English and German – for the finder to send it back to the school. The postcards were attached as an experi-

ment, said PES teacher Barbara Maynard, just to see how many will be returned.

When all of the students had circled the track and made their way to the Husky infield, they listened to remembrances sent in from PES and PHS alumni (read by James Heffernan) and danced to 1979-era songs such as “We Are Family.”

A few teachers got into the celebratory spirit as well, with fifth grade teacher Milly Distal-Perez and sixth grade teacher Harry Stine cutting a rug – much to their students’ delight – to the sounds of Gloria Gaynor’s 1979 hit song “I Will Survive.”

At the end of the ceremony, the students released the 200 red, white and blue balloons and watched as a brisk wind pulled them over the Patch Fitness Center and into the forest beyond.

Where they landed, and how many will make it back to the school, remains to be seen.



[Above] Kindergartner Reagan Bracknell keeps a focused eye on the balloons floating in the sky. [Top Left] The class of 2015 makes a grand entrance to Husky Field for the school’s 25th anniversary celebration Oct. 4.

Tennis' Davenport visits Patch

World's #2 player offers support, shares tips

Story and photo by Melanie Casey

She may have just won her 45th career tennis title, a new Porsche and \$98,000, but Lindsay Davenport also earned something a little less tangible: the admiration of Patch High School students, tennis team members and faculty.

Davenport, the number two female tennis player in the world (although she is just a few points shy of regaining the top slot) was in nearby Filderstadt for the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix tennis tournament – which she later won.



Along with friend and doubles partner Corina Morariu and coach Adam Peterson, Davenport stopped by PHS Oct. 7 at the request of Patch video production teacher and tennis coach Walter Fritz and members of the PHS tennis team.

Davenport's first stop was the video production classroom, in which she was interviewed by students for "Patch Network News." She later visited with students, answered questions, signed autographs and was made an honorary PHS tennis coach in the PHS gym.

When school was done for the day, Davenport hit the newly-renovated PHS tennis courts with several members of the school's tennis team, taking the time to hit balls with each of them and offer training tips, Fritz said. She also got a taste of home by visiting Taco Bell and the Patch PXtra.

Davenport not only took the time to visit, but also donated thousands of dollars worth of tickets for the tournament in Filderstadt to the school, Fritz said. Shortly after her win in that tournament Oct. 10, Fritz added, she turned to the Patch contingent in the stands and publicly thanked them.

Davenport's visit to Patch marked her first time on a U.S. military installation. "It's amazing to think that in Germany there is this little perimeter that is like the United States," she said. "When you're not used to it, you don't really understand it."

"She's a really neat lady," Fritz said, adding that as long as she participates in the tournament again next year, "without a doubt, she'll be back."

Tennis pro Lindsay Davenport poses for a photo with PHS junior Phillip Steagall, whose brother was wounded in Iraq and is in Landstuhl Army Hospital.

Patch High School celebrates Red Ribbon Week Oct. 25 to 29

Red Ribbon Week is a national campaign to raise public awareness and mobilize communities to combat alcohol and drug use among youth. This year's theme is "Drug Free – I Have the Power," and PHS will celebrate with the following events:

Oct. 25

Red ribbons given to students and faculty

Oct. 26

Alcohol and Drug Awareness Quiz

Oct. 27

Red ribbons tied around trees on Patch

Oct. 28

Red Ribbon Poster Contest (sponsored by the Key Club).

Oct. 29

Red Ribbon closing ceremony

For more information call Jasmin Coty at 430-8237/civ. 0711-680-8237 or Randy Zamerinsky-Lussier at 430-7041/civ. 0711-680-7041.

PHS students celebrate success-filled Homecoming

By Hugh C. McBride

The six Patch High School varsity athletic teams that were in action Oct. 2 accounted for 10 victories on a Homecoming afternoon that was truly one for the ages.

The PHS tennis teams got the day off to a successful start against Mannheim, with the boys winning 6-3 and the girls winning 7-2.

In the nearby PHS gym, the volleyball squad continued the win streak, improving to 4-0 with victories over Wiesbaden and Würzburg.

At the other end of the installation, the Patch cross country teams took to the trails against Heidelberg, Black Forest Academy and Würzburg, with the girls emerging on the top of the team totals and the boys finishing second to Heidelberg.

The PHS football team brought the athletic portion of the day to a victorious finish with its first win of the season, a 28-21 triumph over previously undefeated Naples.

After the series of sports successes, the day ended with a traditional Homecoming Dance, presided over by Queen Bethany Schmidt and King Gene Simpson.



courtesy

[Above] Queen Bethany Schmidt and King Gene Simpson celebrate during the Homecoming Dance.



[Near left] The PHS defense stops a Naples ballcarrier en route to a 28-21 victory over the previously unbeaten squad..

[Far left] PHS runner Shannon Beydler competes in the Homecoming cross country meet, which the Lady Panthers won.



Hugh C. McBride

Hugh C. McBride